THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government of West Bengal to increase sericulture production, the Central Silk Board is already implementing an intensive Sericulture Development Project in the State involving an outlay of Rs. 9. 66 crores. The project initiated during 1985-86 envisages bringing an additional area of 4000 acres under high yielding mulberry plantation by 1989-90 and introduction of improved methods of silkworm rearing, besides providing infrastructures required for sericulture development.

Industrial Units discharging waste water into Ganga

972. SHRl RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state what action Government have taken against the industrial units that have already been identified as gross pollutors discharging thousand of litres of waste water and other pollutants daily into the Ganga river ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI /. R. ANSARI: An Expert Committee has identified 68 industrial units in U. P., Bihar and West Bengal as gross pollutors based on the quantity of Waste Water discharged (1000 kilolitres per day or more) and its characteristics. As on 31st July, 1987, the position in regard to these 68 industries is as follows: (i) 24 units have set up effluent treatment plants.

(ii) effluent treatment plants are under construction in 11 units.

(iii) 16 units have taken action to prepare schemes for setting up of treatment plants or have called tenders for award of work.

(iv) 5 units arc reported to be closed for other reasons. State Pollution Control Boards have initiated legal action in the case of remaining 12 units, who have not taken action for setting up of treatment plants. In addition notices to show cause why they should not be closed down, have been issued under Sec. 5 of the Environment Protection Act to 9 units.

Effect of Gas Flaring on Crops

973. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the adverse effect of gas flaring on the standing crops during flowering season in different parts of the country; and

ib) if so. what measures have been taken to cope with the situation and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government is not aware of such studies in different parts of the country except the study carried out in Assam on the effect of gas flaring on standing crops during flowering season.

(b) The measures taken to reduce flaring of gas and its effect include: —

1. Consumers are being encouraged to take gas on a fallback basis when regular customers fail to lift the committed quantities of gas.

2. Regular Customers are being encouraged to take additional quantities of gas for which discount in price is available.

3. Additional compression facilities have been installed by which low pressure gas in larger quantity is being utilised.

4. All the flaring pits are being progressively covered with asbestos to contain the heat so as not to affect crops surrounding the pits.

Currency Note Printing Press in West Bengal

974. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a I what is the present position with regard to the proposed currency note printing press in West Bengal; and

(b) by when it is likely to be completed ?